containing sections 138 to 142 in the Negotiable Instruments Act;

(b) if so, what arc the main considerations for incorporation of this new chapter; and

(c) whether there will be any liability provision for the erring banks if they wilfully or by oversight return the cheque unpaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl EDUARDO FA-LEIRO): (a) A new Chapter XVII has already been incorporated in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 by virtue of section 4 of the Banking, Public Financial Institutions and Negotiable Instruments Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988 (66 of 1988).

(b) The main considerations, *inter alia* include to enhance the ac ceptability of cheques in settlement of liabilities by making the drawer liable for penalities in case bouncing of cheque is due to insufficiency of funds in the account or for the reason that it exceeds the arrangements made by the drawer. However, there are adequate safeguards to prevent harassment of honest drawers.

(c) Section 31 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 already pro vides that the drawee of a cheque having sufficient funds of the drawer in his hands properly applicable to the payment of such cheque must pay the cheque when duly required so to do, and, in default of such payment must compensate the drawer for any loss or damage caused by such default.

Dacoities in trains between Delhi and Calcutta

991. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA-Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dacoities are common in trains passing from Delhi to Calcutta particularly in Bihar;

(b) whether one such dacoity took place on November 25, 1988 in the De-luxe-104 DN from Delhi to Calcutta.

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to check dacoities in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Cases of crime on Railways are reported to registered and investigated by the State Government agencies including Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of State Governments.

However, according to available information there was no case of dacoity on the 104 DN Deluxe Express on November 25, 1988 within the jurisdiction of the Northern Railway from Delhi to Mugal Sarai, Information on the incident in the Eastern Railway Zone is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Government Railway Police provides escorts on FastlSuperfast, MailfExpress trains according to local conditions and requirements. Railway Protection Force also assists Government Railway Police in this task as and when necessary.

Codified message regarding movement of V.V.I.Ps.

992. SHRI KAPIL VERMA;
SHR[T]MATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware Df reports that the codified messages